

## GUN PLAYS OF HUMORISTS.

## Shooting in Which Cowboys Used to Find Fun.

The hurrah days of western Kansas had passed, says a Guthrie letter, before Oklahoma was opened to settlement, and the men who had enlivened the towns of Dodge City, Abilene, Medicine Lodge and Caldwell had moved further west or remained stranded in their old rendezvous. The opening of Oklahoma gave them a new outlet, and many rode over the border and settled in the new country.

All northwestern Oklahoma is sprinkled with them. They have reached the age of reminiscence and no longer lie in wait for the unsuspecting tenderfoot.

Col. Ed Marchant, of Carmen, lived in Medicine Lodge in the old days and knew everybody from Junction City as far west as Dodge.

"Most of the escapades of that reckless time were intended as practical jokes," said Marchant. "They were rough jokes, but it was foolish to protest."

"No barkeeper ever liked to have a cowboy ride into his saloon and up to the bar for a drink, even if he pay two bits for it, but the barkeeper did not say so, at least not in the presence of those who would repeat it, for if the report became current that the Lone Star saloon or the Long Branch did not like such customers, no one for twenty miles around would take a drink at any other place or in any other fashion."

"While the merchants did not like to have their signs shot up they dared not complain. If Prairie-Dog-Hole Dave or Cimarron Pete took a pot shot at and drilled holes in a newly painted sign with a .45 bullet, the owner looked on and smiled, for it was only a display of Dave's humor or Pete's joking proclivities. If the merchants had protested a dozen or more cowboys would have rallied to the support of their comrades and a fusillade would have wholly destroyed the object of the joke."

"Only once did I hear anything in remembrance about such pleasures, and that was when the ornate gilt sign of a young lawyer from St. Louis was shot up. He offered a reward of \$5 for information as to who did it."

"An hour or so after the report of the offered reward was in general circulation. One-armed Miller from the Bar X ranch rode to the young lawyer's door and announced that he could tell who did it, and would if the five were placed in his hand. The lawyer passed over the money which Miller put in his pocket."

"Now," said Miller, "I fill my part of the deal. I don't, partner, with this here gun. And up came the six-shooter, falling carelessly across the horse's neck, so that the muzzle pointed in the lawyer's direction."

"You offers the reward," Miller

continued, "I claim it. You comes up square and pays like a gentleman and I tote square and tells. Everything ought to be agreeable, so I invites you over to the Lost Maverick, where the boys is, and we proceeds to blow in this 'ere five for drinks."

"The young lawyer was not slow to grasp the humor of the situation and his acceptance of Miller's invitation secured for him forever the friendship of every man on that range."

"Speaking of shooting signs recalls that trouble that the Barton County commissioners used to have to keep signs over the bridge across the Arkansas river at Great Bend. The first bridge built was a rickety affair laid on piles and the commissioners decorated each end with gorgeous blue signs reading: 'No riding or driving over this bridge faster than a walk.'"

"Hunter and Evans were holding cattle south of the river, and the men made frequent trips to town. The gayly painted signs were too much for them, and going out of town they would put spurs to their horses, and while on a dead run shoot at the first sign, then cross the bridge without slackening pace, the structure swaying and rocking to their horses' hoofbeats, firing more shots at the second sign as they passed under it."

"It may seem almost incredible, yet it remains a fact that within a week after the signs were put in place the letters were cut out so that each sign looked like an overgrown marking stencil, and within another week not a splinter of either remained."

"It was at this same town of Great Bend that was best displayed an incident of cowboy humor. It was just after the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway reached the town, which was as far west as the railroad gave passenger service. The last train out reached Great Bend at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon."

"One day there disembarked a man wearing a plug hat. After leaving the station he had to go west for a short distance to get into the street leading to town. That street was a continuation of the road into town from the south and the country where the southern cattle were being held in quarantine."

"The man wearing the tall hat was about two blocks north when the two cowboys came across the railroad track at a smart gallop. They glanced at each other as they reached a point opposite the man with the hat, both their guns came out, there was a blending of two reports, and two bullets perforated the stranger's hat."

"The cowboys were fooled, however, for instead of a terrified tenderfoot making rapid time toward the nearest shelter, they were greeted with a polite bow."

"How are you, gentlemen?" he said; "it pleases me greatly to be received with such marked distinction."

"The cowboys were speechless in amazement. Here was a new specimen, something altogether different from anything in the tenderfoot line they had ever seen. Finally one found his voice and said:

"Say, stranger, you're a plumb good 'um, and me and Jim 'poligizes for spillin' yer hat. The Rome saloon's the first place goin' uptown where we can licker up, an' if it's all the same to you, the drinks is on us."

"The stranger signified his satisfaction with this arrangement, the two cowboys dismounted and walked at his side and they became well acquainted in the quarter mile walk to Rome."

"An hour later they were better acquainted. The stranger was still under the escort of the cow men. All three were loaded with cow town whiskey, and the man with the plug hat, now forlorn and marked with many a dent, was being introduced to every cow puncher in town as 'the unbranded cayuse that stood fire the first dash and never twitched an ear.'"

"Shooting up a town was not always unattended by casualties. In 1890 a crowd shot up a Kansas town. A young woman was visiting there from another town. Hearing shots, she stepped to the door of the house in which she was a guest and received a bullet in the middle of her forehead, killing her instantly. The man who fired the shot was identified and convicted, and he served a term in the Kansas penitentiary."

"A strange fate has since pursued the town. From a bustling, active town and a cattle shipping point it has become only a hamlet, among the sand hills of the Kansas border. There are many old cowmen who recall the killing of the young woman and de-

clare that the town has since been under a curse."

"When Harper became a railroad town a number of shipment drives were made from territory points, arriving attained to the dignity of a railroad town, a number of ordinances were passed prohibiting fast riding and driving within the city limits and assessing fines for discharging firearms, etc."

"The men who came on the drives were surprised and indignant to find this, but the straw that tipped the scale and broke the camel's back to the point of rebellion was a city marshal wearing a big silver plated badge. There was a consultation among the men who were sticklers for custom and supporters of precedent. They always had run the town, and it stood to reason that they always should."

"It was determined to make a test case right then and there. Two of them made a wild race through the main street and the 'e-e-i-i-o-h' of the cowboy yell pierced the atmosphere of Harper."

"The marshal remonstrated and explained the ordinance in such case made and provided. His law lecture was interrupted by the swift passing of a yellow cow fleeing madly from a pinto pony bearing a cowboy, who encircled a rope which settled about the neck of the yelling dog when not 20 feet away from the marshal."

"More lectures from the marshal and threats of immediate arrest. A pistol shot was heard, in the direction of which the marshal hurried. Near the city well stood a cowboy with a still smoking pistol in his hand."

"Consider yourself under arrest, and turn me the butt of your gun," commanded the marshal as he threw down on the man with the gun."

"Drop your gun and get up against the pump," said a voice behind the marshal, and before he could realize what had happened to him a lariat had settled about his neck and he was jerked backward, disarmed and tied to the windlass."

"Then Harper began to howl. Many of the merchants closed their stores and put up heavy shutters. The dance halls and saloons were the only places in town left open. That night they took the keys of the lockup from the marshal's pocket, conveyed him thereto and looked him in. They thoughtfully sent him his supper and a message that he would be released in the morning."

"The town ran wide open until day-break, when the roysterers left. No one was hurt and no property damaged, for, as one of the participants remarked 'we was just into it for the fun.'"

"Much fun was enjoyed in those days at the expense of commercial travelers, who made the southwestern Kansas territory in light wagons. Whenever a couple of cowboys could stampede a drummer's outfit by a sudden charge from behind a sandhill or from the mouth of a draw, it was great fun."

"At the half way house between Harper and Medicine Lodge one day a drummer complained because there was little else than beans for dinner and declared that he could not eat them. A cowboy who was seated opposite reached down for his gun and brought it up, covering the drummer. He ordered beans, and covering the drummer all the time compelled him to eat plentiful after plentiful."

"At Medicine Lodge, in the spring of 1892, during a cattleman's convention, I saw a big cowboy catch a prominent citizen in his arms and kiss him. As he dropped the prominent citizen, the cowboy said:

"You looked so purty, Tom, shaved up and powdered so nice, I just wanted to kiss you for luck."

"Luck for whom may not be known, but it may not jingle inharmoniously with this story to record the fact that the man who was kissed afterward became mayor of Medicine Lodge, and that as such he appointed Jerry Simpson city marshal, which position Jerry held when he was first nominated for congress."

A Precise Answer.

"Lawyers are supposed to be the most literal minded men," said Elihu Root, "but every now and then counsel in course of practice will encounter witnesses who can give them points in the matter of literal answers. An Irishman was called to testify in a damage suit arising out of the death of a man 'at the hand of a bull,' so to speak."

"Are we to understand, sir," asked the prosecuting attorney, "that the deceased, Patrick Flannigan, was your father?"

"He was till the bull killed him, was the reply of the witness. 'Woman's Home Companion.'"

"It's queer how easy it is to explain to a woman the things you can't explain to yourself."

"Half the fun of having a good time is making people think you are having a better."

"There is room at the top for the man who can push the other fellow off."

## Hundred Bushels of Corn per Acre Can be Made by Stunting the Stalks and Fertilizing After Planting.

The following highly valuable paper, prepared by Mr. E. Melver Williamson of Darlington county, has just been published in the Hartsville county Messenger.

For a number of years after I began to farm I followed the old-time method of putting the fertilizer all under the corn, planting on a level or higher, six by three feet, pushing the plant from the start and making a big stalk, but the ears were few and frequently small. I planted much corn in the spring and bought much more corn the next spring, until finally I was driven to the conclusion that corn could not be made on uplands in this section, except by the old method, except at a loss."

I did not give up, however, for I knew that the farmer who did not make his own corn never had succeeded, and never would, so I began to experiment. First, I planted lower, and the yield was better, but the stalks were still too large, so I discontinued altogether the application of fertilizer before planting, and knowing that all crops should be fertilized at some time, I used mixed fertilizer as a side application, and applied the more soluble nitrate of soda later, being guided in this by the excellent results obtained from its use as a top dressing for oats. Still the yield, though regular, was not large, and the smallness of the stalk itself now suggested that they should be planted thicker in the drill. This was done the next year with results so satisfactory that I continued from year to year to increase the number of stalks and the fertilizer with which to sustain them, and applied the nitrate of soda at last plowing and, by early sowing, p. as broadcast. This method steadily increased the yield, until year before last (1904) with corn 11 inches apart in six foot rows and \$11 worth of fertilizer to the acre, I made 84 bushels average to the acre, several of my best acres making as much as 125 bushels."

Last year (1905) I followed the same method, planting the first week in April, 70 acres which had produced 100 bushels before 1,000 pounds seed cotton per acre. This land is sandy upland, somewhat rolling. Seasons were very unfavorable, owing to the tremendous rains in May, and the dry and extremely hot weather later. From June 12th to July 12th, the time when it most needed moisture, there was only 5/8 of an inch of rainfall here; yet with \$7.01 cost of fertilizer, my yield was 52 bushels per acre. Rows were six feet and corn 10 inches in drill."

With this method, on land that will ordinarily produce 1,000 pounds of seed cotton with 800 pounds of fertilizer, 50 bushels of corn per acre should be made by using 200 pounds of cotton seed meal, 200 pounds of acid phosphate, and 400 pounds of kainit mixed, or their equivalent in other fertilizer, and 125 pounds of nitrate of soda, all to be used as side application as directed below."

On land that will make a bale and one half of cotton per acre when well fertilized, 100 bushels of corn should be produced by doubling the amount of fertilizer above, except that 300 pounds of nitrate of soda should be used."

In each case there should be left on the land in cornstalks, peas, vines and roots, from \$12 to \$16 worth of fertilizing material per acre, beside the great benefit to the land from so large an amount of vegetable matter. The place of this in the permanent improvement of land can never be taken by commercial fertilizer, for it is absolutely impossible to make lands rich as long as they are lacking in vegetable matter."

Land should be thoroughly and deeply broken for corn, and this is the time in a system of rotation to deepen the soil. Cotton requires a more compact soil than corn, and while a deep soil is essential to its best development, it will not produce well on loose open land, while corn does best on land thoroughly broken. A deep soil will not only produce more heavily than a shallow soil with good seasons, but it will stand more wet as well as more dry weather."

In preparing for the corn crop, land should be broken broadcast during the winter one-fourth deeper than it has been plowed before, or if much vegetable matter is being turned under, it may be broken one-third deeper. This is as much deepening as land will usually stand in one year and produce well, though it may be continued each year, so long as much dead vegetable matter is being turned under. It may, however, be subsided to any depth by following in bottom of turn plow furrow, provided no more of the subsoil than has been directed, is turned up. Break with two horse plow, if possible, or better with six plow. With the latter cotton stalks or corn stalks as large as your ever made can be turned under without having large clumps, and in peavines it will not choke the ground."

Never plow land when it is wet, if you expect ever to have any use for it again."

Bed with turn plow in six foot rows, leaving five inch balk. When ready to plant, break this out with scoter, following in bottom of this furrow, deep with Dixie plow, wing with same plow still going deep. Run corn planter on this ridge, dropping one grain every five or six inches. Plant early, as soon as frost danger is past, say first reasonable spell after March 15th, in this section. Especially is early planting necessary on very rich lands where stalks cannot otherwise be prevented from growing too large. Give first working with narrow or any plow that will not cut the balk. For second working, use 10 or 12 inch sweep on both sides of corn, which should now be about eight inches high. This after this working, it is not necessary that the plant should be left all the same distance apart, if the right number remain to each yard or row."

Corn should not be worked again until the growth has been so retarded and the stalks so hardened that it will never grow too large. This is the MOST DIFFICULT POINT in the whole process. Experience and judgment are required to know just how much the stock should be turned and how back your corn when your neighbors are turning theirs. If you are not sure, have your corn turned twice the size of yours. They are having their fun now. Yours will come at harvest time. The richer

the land the more necessary it is that the stunting process should be thoroughly done."

When you are convinced that your corn has been sufficiently humiliated, you may begin to make the ear. It should now be from 12 to 18 inches high, and look worse than you ever had any corn to look before."

Put half your mixed fertilizer (this being the first used at all) in the old sweep furrow on both sides of every other middle, and cover by breaking out this middle with turn plow. About one week later treat the other middle the same way. Within a few days side corn in first middle with 16-inch sweep. Put all your nitrate of soda in this furrow, if less than 150 pounds. If more, use one-half of it now. Cover with one furrow of turn plow, then sow peas in this middle broadcast at the rate of at least one bushel to the acre, and finish breaking out."

In a few days side corn in other middle with same sweep, put balance of nitrate of soda in this furrow if it has been divided, cover with turn plow, sow peas, and break out. This lays by our crop with a good bed and plenty of dirt around your stalk. This should be from June 10th to 20th unless season is very late, and corn should be hardly bunching for tassels. Lay by early. More corn is ruined by late plowing than by lack of plowing. This is when the ear is hurt. Two good rains after laying by should make you a good crop of corn, and it will certainly make with much less rain if pushed and fertilized in the old way."

The stalks thus raised are very small, and do not require anything like the moisture, even in proportion to size, that is necessary for large sappy stalks. They may, therefore, be left much thicker in the row. This is no new process. It has long been a custom to cut back vines and trees in order to increase the yield and quality of fruit, and so long as you do not HOLD back your corn, it will go, like mine so long went, to all stalks."

Do not be discouraged by the looks of your corn during the process of cultivation. It will yield out of all proportion to its appearance. Large stalks cannot make large yields, except with extremely favorable seasons, for they cannot stand a lack of moisture. Early applications of manure go to make large stalks, which you do not want, and the plant food is all thus used before the ear, which you do want, is made. Tall stalks not only will not produce well themselves, but will not allow you to make the pea vines, so necessary to the improvement of land. Corn raised by this method should never grow over seven and half feet high and the ear should be near to the ground."

I consider the final application as

ONE ACRE CROP ANALYSES.				
	Nitrogen	Phos. acid	Potash	Value
2,800 pounds corn (grain) . . . . .	61	20	11	
500 pounds shucks . . . . .	5	2	4	
400 pounds cobs . . . . .	2	0	3	
"A" taken land . . . . .	58	22	20	
1,200 pounds corn stalks . . . . .	12	3	17	
3,000 pounds peas, vines and roots grown in corn . . . . .	59	16	44	
Entire crop contains . . . . .	129	41	81	28.26
Taken from land . . . . .	58	22	20	12.03
Left for next crop . . . . .	71	19	61	16.23
100 bushels oats and straw will require . . . . .	78	31	48	
1,500 pounds seed cotton and stalks will require . . . . .	64	17	56	
50 bushels corn, cobs, shucks and stalks will require . . . . .	70	25	37	

nitrate of soda and essential point in this ear making process. It should always be applied at last plowing and mixed with other fertilizers. I am satisfied with one ear to the stalk, unless a prolific variety is planted, and leave 100 stalks for every bushel that I expect to make. I find the six foot row easiest to cultivate without injuring the corn. For 50 bushels to the acre, I leave it 15 inches apart; for 75 bushels to the acre, 12 inches apart, and for 100 bushels eight inches apart. Corn should be planted from four to six inches below the level, and that by from four to six inches above. No hoeing should be necessary, and middles may be kept clean until time to break out, by using harrow or by running one shovel furrow in centre of middle and bedding on that, with one or more rounds of turn plow."

I would advise only a few acres tried by this method the first year, or until you are familiar with its application. Especially is it hard at first to fully carry out the stunting process, and the whole crop is involved, and this is the absolutely essential part of the process."

This method I have applied or seen applied successfully to all kinds of land in this section except river lands and moist bottoms, and I am confident it can be made of great benefit throughout the entire south."

In the middle West, where corn is so prolific and profitable, and where, most materially for us, so much of our food has been produced, the stalk does not naturally grow large. As we come south its size increases, and the expense of the ear, until in Cuba and Mexico it is nearly all stalk (witness Mexican varieties). The purpose of this method is to eliminate this tendency of corn to overgrowth at the expense of yield, in this southern climate. By this method I have made my corn crop more profitable than my cotton crop, and my neighbors and friends who have adopted it have, without exception, derived great benefit therefrom. Plant your own seed. I would not advise a change of seed and method the same year, as you will not then know from which you have derived the benefit. I have used three varieties, and all have done well. I have never used this method for late planting in the fall, do not advise the late planting of corn, as it is necessary for cold countries. The increased cost of labor and the high price of all material and fuel are rapidly making farming unprofitable, except to those who have been from one acre that they have got from two. You must make out your rich by plowing deep, plant-

ing peas and other legumes, manuring them with acid phosphate and potash, which are relatively cheap, and returning to the soil the resultant vegetable matter rich in humus and expensive nitrogen. The needs of our soil are such that the south can never reap the full measure of prosperity that should be hers, until this is done. I give this method as a farmer to the farmers of the south, trusting that thereby they may be benefited as I have been."

## Ferry from Florida to Cuba.

Mobile, Feb. 11.—To give outlet into Cuba for the Florida East Coast Railroad Henry M. Flagler, who has made something less than a hundred million dollars in Standard Oil, and who has spent a few of those millions in building winter hotels in Florida, and the development of the east coast of that State, has given orders to his railroad engineers to devise a feasible scheme by which through trains over the Florida East Coast system may land passengers in Havana without change of cars. Mr. Flagler believes that boats, constructed somewhat after the model of ferry boats, can be built with train-carrying capacity, and at same time capable of navigating the Gulf in all weather. If it is found that the scheme is practicable, orders will be given in a short time for building boats to carry all through trains over the Florida East Coast line. If the scheme goes into effect it will mean that people desiring to go to Havana may get on a train at Jersey City and not leave it until they reach the Cuban Capital."

Maj. Thomas M. Owen, Commander in Chief of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans, has issued an open letter to the camps and members of the United Confederate Veterans appealing for aid and assistance in reviving old camps of Sons of Veterans and urging the organization of new ones. Maj. Owen is especially anxious to see a renewal of interest in the Sons of Veterans by the time the next reunion meets in New Orleans. The Commander in Chief hopes to have more than a thousand replies to this appeal from veterans in the next thirty days."

The conference between committees of the United Mine Workers of America and the operators at Indianapolis on the wage scale and other demands broke up in a disagreement, and it is probable that 55,000 men will strike April 1."

On Friday Mrs. Alice Sewell, of Swainsboro, Ga., became a widow by the death of her husband, a wealthy man, who left all his property to her. He was buried on Sunday, and on the way from the funeral the widow was married to Robert S. McDaniel, who had been in love with her before her marriage, and the two went off together on a bridal tour."

Some people never think of charity until they meet with misfortune themselves."

A man loses more by lying than he gains."

It takes a good deal of courage not to pretend you have it."

No family ever yet felt like framing its liquor bills."

A free thinker is one who is unable to dispose of his thoughts for a pecuniary consideration."

Love at first sight may require the services of an oculist after a second look."

JUNE 13th.

The Mystery of

JUNE 13TH!

First installment in THE ATLANTA JOURNAL

-SUNDAY, FEB. 18!

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THE MYSTERY OF JUNE 13th.

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## SEED TIME

The experienced farmer has learned that some grains require far different soil than others; some crops need different handling than others. He knows that a great deal depends upon right planting at the right time, and that the soil must be kept enriched. No use of complaining in summer about a mistake made in the spring. Decide before the seed is planted.

The best time to remedy wasting conditions in the human body is before the evil is too deep rooted. At the first evidence of loss of flesh

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